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Davis Awards \$448,200 Grant to Fayette County for New Fire Station

INDIANAPOLIS—Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis today awarded a \$448,200 Community Focus Fund grant to Fayette County for construction of a new fire station.

An all-volunteer organization with 35 trained firefighters and no paid staff, the Everton Volunteer Fire Department serves most of Fayette County and has responded to calls in surrounding counties. The current station is inadequately sized to house the department's five firefighting and rescue vehicles behind the building, and does not have sufficient space to conduct on-site training activities.

"The state of Indiana supports Fayette County's efforts to build a new fire station," said Davis, who serves as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "The new station will benefit residents and their communities."

The Community Focus Fund (CFF) grant will assist in the construction of a 12,735-square-foot fire station, with four drive-thru bays. The new station will provide sufficient space to house the department's firefighting equipment, and could help decrease the department's response time by up to six minutes.

The Community Focus Fund is a federally funded grant program administered by the Indiana Department of Commerce. The funding is available to small cities, towns and counties for construction projects designed to benefit low- to moderate-income individuals or to eliminate blight in communities. Grants are awarded through competitive funding rounds to assist small communities in long-term development projects.

Projects eligible for CFF grants include local infrastructure improvements, childcare facilities, senior and community centers, downtown revitalization and fire stations and fire trucks. Up to \$500,000 is available per applicant. A match of at least 10 percent is required from the grant recipient.

In this, the second round of funding for 2004, 37 Hoosier communities shared in nearly \$15 million in funding.

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For more information about the CFF grant program, contact the Office of Community Assistance in the Community Development Division of the Indiana Department of Commerce at 800.824.2476 or access its Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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